

Weekly Column for August 19, 2004

Could it really be August 19th already? Before you know it Christmas will be here, at least that's what the ladies at Fleur De Lis told me last week as they were receiving their Christmas shipment. That's right, the snow will be here soon, I can't wait (sarcasm rating is off the chart here).

But as you all know, snow turns to water when it melts, and in one terrible segue; we have our mini-topic of the week- water.

Last week the City of Troy participated in a contest sponsored by the New York State Department of Health for the best tasting water in the area. The participants had already won a countywide test, and this was to decide the regional winner. Other than Troy, Green Island, Saratoga Springs, Glens Falls, and Schenectady all participated. Well to make a short story even shorter, we won. That's right; Troy has the best water in the entire area. Number One.

So next, it is on to the Syracuse State Fair where the water from the Tomhanock Reservoir will compete with water samples from around the Empire State for the title of Best Water in New York. Will we win? I certainly hope so. Our water is great asset to the City and its residents, and everyone should be proud that, at the very least, we have the best water in the Capital District.

Terrible Segue number two- the John J. Harvey Fireboat visited us this week on its annual tour up the Hudson River. The fireboat, which was commissioned in the 1930's to fight high-rise fires in New York City, was quite a spectacle to see. As it first cruised by City Hall it shot streams of water in every direction which put a smile on everyone who happened to be watching.

They docked just behind City Hall, offering rides to Troy residents, and tours as well, for no cost. I had the great opportunity to welcome them to the City and all of the crew was excited to be here. They love the architecture in Troy, they appreciate the waterfront, and were excited to hear about the impending demolition of the Front Street parking garage, which is one of the uglier things in the City.

So I wanted to thank the crew of the John J Harvey, as well as the Riverspark Visitors Center for organizing everything. A job well done by all. In the future it is my hope that our Heritage Tourism will only continue to increase. It's the small things that count.

Tune in next week, when hopefully it will only be raining and not snowing. If you have any questions, comments, concerns or complaints, you know how to reach me. On the phone at 270-4401, or through e-mail at the Mayor's Office.

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy